United Nations A/53/1006

General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 30
United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Letter dated 1 July 1999 from the Chairman of the Second Committee addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour, pursuant to your decision dated 14 April 1999 to appoint the Chairman of the Second Committee of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly as Coordinator of the open-ended informal consultations on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements (A/53/463), to forward for your information and further action by the General Assembly the draft resolution entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements" (see annex), which was approved by consensus on 28 June 1999.

I would appreciate it very much if you could have this letter and its annex circulated under agenda item 30 of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

Bagher **Asadi**
Ambassador
Chairman of the Second Committee
Coordinator of the open-ended
informal consultations on the
report of the Secretary-General on
environment and human settlements

99-19786 (E) 080799

Annex

Draft resolution

Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 A of 12 November 1997, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform",

Reaffirming its determination to strengthen the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations, including in the field of environment and human settlements, and thus improve its performance in order to realize the full potential of the Organization,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements[a] and the report of the United Nations Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements,[b] which contain recommendations on reforming and strengthening the activities of the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements,

Expressing its appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Task Force for their commendable work,

Conscious of the continued deterioration of the global environment and the state of human settlements despite some positive achievements, as well as of the need to strengthen the institutions of the United Nations charged with responsibility for environment and human settlements, to improve their performance, and to promote coordination in the implementation of the environmental and human settlements dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in their Nairobi location, and of ensuring the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources necessary to both organizations for the fulfilment of their mandates as contained in General Assembly resolutions 2997/XXVII and 32/162, as well as in the Nairobi Declaration of 1997 and the Istanbul Declaration of 1996, including by seeking additional financial resources through broadening the range of sources of funding for both organizations, in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations,

Taking into account the views of member States on the report of the Secretary-General on Environment and Human Settlements,

Also taking into account the views contained in decision 20/17 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and resolution 17/6 of the Commission on Human Settlements concerning the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to strengthen the United Nations in the field of environment and human settlements, and in that context takes note of the general thrust of recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements, proposing actions to be taken by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Director of the

[a] A/53/463.

[b] A/53/463, annex.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, and also notes the recommendations outlined in section IV of the report;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in its capacity as currently the only United Nations headquarters located in a developing country, through the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources, including by proposing additional regular budget resources as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 52/220 for the consideration of the General Assembly, with due regard for proper United Nations budgetary procedures;

3. *Encourages* the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to take steps to increase the level of utilization of the Office, and in this regard encourages other agencies, funds and programmes to consider increasing their utilization of its facilities for their activities;

4. *Calls on* the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to increase their cooperation and strengthen coordination among their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities, as well as their separate Executive Directors;

5. *Supports* the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements, and requests the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with the Member States and members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the mandate, terms of reference, appropriate criteria for membership and the flexible and cost-effective working methods of the proposed environmental management group, and submit them to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session for consideration;

6. *Welcomes* the proposal to institute an annual ministerial-level, global environmental forum, that regular biennial sessions of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council would constitute that forum in the years that it meets, and that in alternate years the forum should take the form of the special session of the Governing Council meeting, in which participants can gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, with due consideration for the need to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the governance mechanisms of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as possible financial implications and the need to maintain the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the main forum for high-level policy debate on sustainable development;

7. *Supports* the proposals for the facilitation and support, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, towards enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties of the conventions concerned, and emphasizes in this regard the need to provide the United Nations Environment Programme with the adequate resources to perform this task;

8. *Welcomes* the proposals for the involvement, participation and constructive engagement of major groups active in the field of environment and human settlements, with due consideration for the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the United Nations;

9. *Reiterates* the importance of strengthening the capacity and capability of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, within the framework of their existing mandates, in the areas of information, the monitoring and assessment of global and regional environmental and human settlements

trends and early warning information on threats, so as to catalyse and promote international cooperation and action, and in this context emphasizes the importance of strengthening the system-wide Earthwatch as an effective, accessible and strictly non-political science-based system;

10. *Reaffirms* that in accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Environment Programme should not become involved in conflict identification, prevention or resolution;

11. *Stresses* the need to ensure that capacity-building and technical assistance, particularly with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries, as well as research and scientific studies, in the field of environment and human settlements, must remain important components of the work programmes of both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, within their existing mandates, and also stresses in this regard the need for adequate financial resources as well as the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

12. *Also stresses* the need to further enhance the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, consistent with its role as defined in the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility;

13. *Reaffirms* the role of the Commission on Human Settlements in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, emphasizes the need for it to take steps to prepare for the review of its implementation in 2001, and welcomes the proposals that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements should strengthen its core activities and develop into a centre for excellence for human settlements;

14. *Welcomes* the proposal to continue ongoing work on the development of indicators in the field of environment and human settlements, and in this regard stresses the importance of the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 30 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 1 June 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 31 May as well as on 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 22 and 27 June 1999, as well as to violations of the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish military vessels recorded on 14 June 1999.

On 31 May 1999, one C-130 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The C-130 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 1242 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 1315 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 8 June 1999, two F-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, returning afterwards to the FIR of Ankara.

On 11 and 12 June 1999, 14 F-16 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

Also on 12 June, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The C-130 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 0910 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 0958 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 13 June 1999, 10 F-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before eight of them returned to the FIR of Ankara. The remaining two F-4 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Limassol before exiting.

On 14 June 1999 at 0545 hours, two military vessels of the Turkish Navy (of type "DOGAN"), which were participating in the military exercise "DENIZ-KURDU", violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus North of Cavo Greco, sailing parallel to the Cypriot coastline towards the closed port of Famagusta.

On 15 June 1999, four F-16 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 17 June 1999, one C-160, one CN-235 and four F-16 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The four F-16 aircraft returned to the Ankara FIR. The C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas, before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

The CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 1653 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 1815 hours of the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 18 June 1999, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before returning to the Ankara FIR. On the same day, two Turkish military helicopters took off from two Turkish military vessels and entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before landing back on the vessels.

On 22 June 1999, one B-200 and two F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The B-200 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 1136 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The two F-4 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

On 27 June 1999, 12 F-16, three C-160 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The 12 F-16 and three C-160 aircraft exited thereafter in a southeasterly direction. The CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Apostolos Andreas in a search and rescue role.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules, and at the same time are in contravention to the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, including the violation of Cyprus's territorial waters, which demonstrate once more Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once again, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1251 (1999), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998 within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force and the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 30 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 30 June 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plûmer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-20356 (E) 130799

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Annex

Letter dated 30 June 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 14 and 18 May and 1 June 1999 (A/53/959-S/1999/565, A/53/965-S/1999/577, A/53/991-S/1999/632, respectively) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

I would like to recall that similar unfounded charges of so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 20 May 1999 (A/53/973-S/1999/598). Flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the usurper regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The Greek Cypriot administration is currently engaged in a policy of escalation on the island. Military build-up in South Cyprus is continuing unabated. Recent reports suggest that the Greek Cypriot administration is negotiating the purchase of 40 T-84 battle tanks (MBTs) from Ukraine (Jane's International Defence Review, June 1999). The Greek Cypriot armaments programme reportedly also includes purchase of attack helicopters, medium-range missiles and missile-attack craft. It is further reported that the Greek Cypriot administration intends to pursue the purchase of Aspide 300 systems from Italy (Jane's Defence Weekly, 2 June 1999). In this connection, the Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 29 May 1999, refers to an agreement which entails the delivery of 12 such systems to South Cyprus. A new bill has been tabled in the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives that would enable the Greek Cypriot National Guard to recruit 250 additional professional soldiers for a period of five years in order to man various weapons systems in South Cyprus (Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 14 June 1999). It was also reported that the Greek Cypriot administration tabled a separate bill which would extend the additional mandatory contribution introduced in 1998 to bolster the "defence fund" until the end of the year 2002. (Greek Cypriot daily Haravgi of 4 June 1999).

Another cause for concern has been the recent discovery of a large arms cache in South Cyprus as reported in the Greek Cypriot daily Alithia of 10 June 1999. According to press reports, large amounts of artillery guns, machine-guns, automatic rifles, assault weapons, pistols, hand-grenades, detonators and ammunition were discovered in a depot in Galata village, enough to equip three military companies. The weapons find is reported to be one of the largest ever made in South Cyprus.

I would like to emphasize, once again, that the continuing militarization campaign by the Greek Cypriot side, as well as the acts of provocation and hostility, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus. My Government expects that the international community will strongly urge the Greek Cypriot

leadership to stop the arming frenzy and abandon its hostile policies, which are not conducive to reducing tension and promoting progress towards reconciliation between the two States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/53/1009

General Assembly

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7 July 1999

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 143
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Note verbale dated 23 June 1999 from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to draw attention to the necessity of relocating South Africa from group (b) to group (c) in the scheme for the apportionment of the costs of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, in accordance with a recent decision of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

In this regard, South Africa requests that the matter be included for consideration under the agenda item on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations at the earliest possible occasion, but no later than during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

South Africa has been placed in group (b) of the scheme for the apportionment of the costs of United Nations peacekeeping operations since the introduction of the scheme with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973. This is an historical anomaly attributable to the misguided policy of the apartheid Government to project South Africa, at the time, as an economically developed Member State.

The fact is that South Africa is a developing country. It has an average per capita gross national product (GNP) of $3,400 per annum (source: World Bank African Development Index 1998/1999), making it the only economically less developed Member State to find itself in category (b) of the scheme for the apportionment of the costs of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It should be noted that South Africa's per capita GNP is lower than those of a number of countries placed in category (c).

Since it assumed office after the country's first ever democratic elections in 1994, the South African Government has consistently sought to meet its financial obligations to the United Nations on time and in full. However, as an economically less developed Member State facing the additional dilemma of redressing the poverty and suffering brought about after many years of apartheid rule, the country can ill afford the added burden it has to carry as a result of its allocation into group (b) of the scheme for the apportionment of costs for peacekeeping operations.

It is further pertinent to note that, at the Twelfth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which took place in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, the Heads of State or Government specifically underlined that Members of the Movement and other developing countries shall be classified in a category that is no higher than group (c) in the scale of assessments for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The Government of South Africa believes that, considering the above facts, its request will be regarded positively.

99-20077 (E) 080799

The Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations would be grateful if the text of the present note could be circulated as a document of the resumed fifty-third session of the General Assembly.